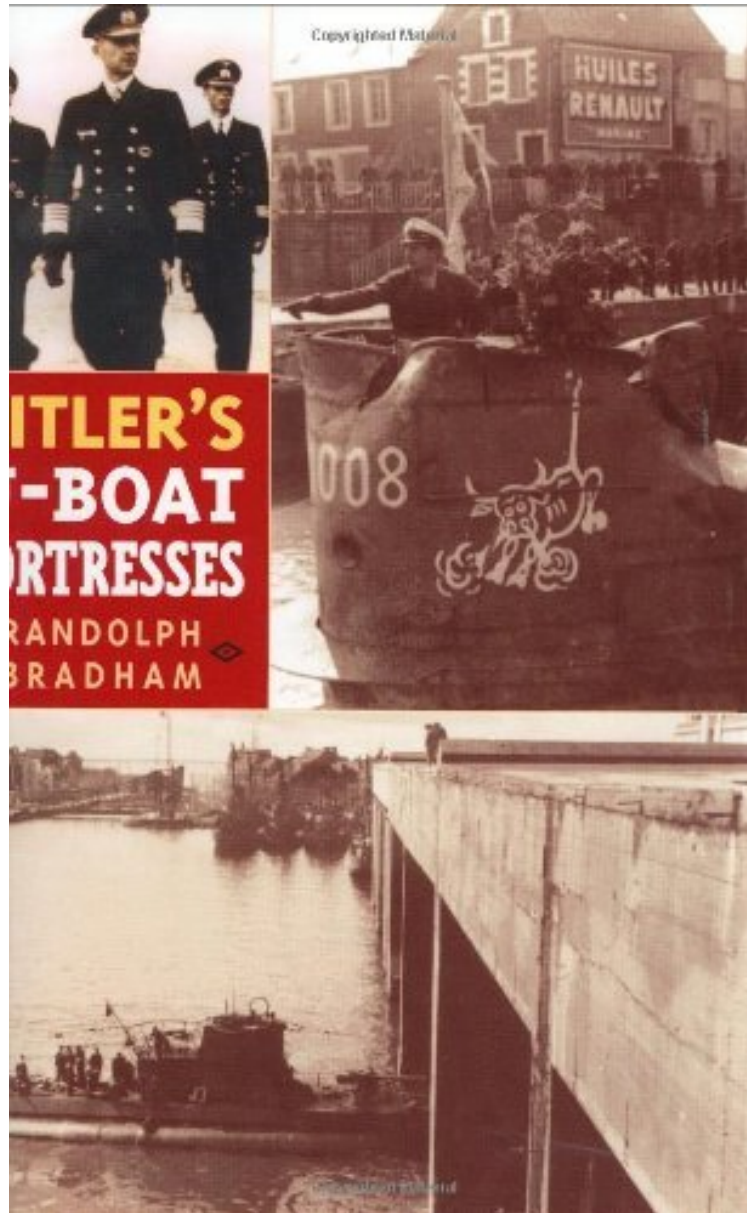


Hitler's U-Boat Fortresses

Randolph Bradham

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Randolph Bradham : Hitler's U-Boat Fortresses before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's U-Boat Fortresses:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Troubled FortressesBy Pablo Calahorra GonzalezI don't know why some people calls this book a "gem", unless their concept of the word emphasizes the more mineral aspects of Dr Bradham's very minor opus. Obviously I disagree with the five stars category given by some reviewers, but everybody

can heap praise on those titles he/she likes, which it is not my case. First of all as some other reviewers have pointed, the title is misleading: the coverage of the U Boat bases is quite reduced (those with a particular interest on the subject can find of interest the book of the same title in the Osprey "Fortress" series), even worse is the fact that there is almost no material about the layout or description of the fortresses which surrounded the ports used by the Germans as U boat bases (again other titles can solve this gap: Rudi Rolf "Fortress Europa" or the Kaufmann books). The worst is the schematic description of the military operations around those "Festungen", the coverage of the French military units which took part is limited to some anecdotes, which tends to suggest that its participation was a minor affair, again this is untrue. The reader looking for coverage of the operations against the southern Festungen (Grave-Royan, Oleron, Ile de Re, La Rochelle-La Pallice) is going to feel very disappointed, as was my case. Nothing is said of the Royan amphibious operation, which employed several thousands of troops mainly French units. The book which is clearly amateurish, offers some interesting photos and sometimes valuable material, dispersed thru its pages. In my opinion however its worst flaws are the lack of a coherent structure which makes it difficult to read and boring and a title which is sadly misleading: it promises a lot but delivers little. If the writer had chosen another title for his remembrance of World War Two, perhaps it would have been less disappointing.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hoping to get a better understanding of the U-boat bastions from the perspectives of ...By Gary LeTourneau

Guess I should have the description closer. Hoping to get a better understanding of the U-boat bastions from the perspectives of use, architecture, history and significance; however, this book focused predominantly on the ground war around them in France. I did learn some interesting facts that I would not have otherwise gained, but as a World War Two naval history (particularly the undersea war) fan, this was something I had to plod through. The book itself arrived timely and in completely acceptable condition, no issues there.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very hard to read

By James D. Crabtree

My grandfather's division (the 94th ID) was one of the ones committed to containing the Germans in Lorient and St. Nazaire and I was hoping that this book would provide some additional information on that fight (I have had little luck so far). Unfortunately this book can be characterized as being repetitious and disorganized. Although there are some interesting first-hand accounts and some good facts here and there it reads as if the author wrote it down as he learned it. There are entire pages devoted to some obscure WWII education program and how many privates were released from colleges in time to serve in France after D-Day.... and? The author never explains the significance of this. It's very frustrating.

The French naval bases at St. Nazaire and Lorient, occupied by the Germans in June 1940, quickly became the homes of massive U-boat fortresses—nearly indestructible submarine pens, built by mostly slave labor. The Royal Air Force began an all-out bombardment of the two ports. Despite their extensive efforts and those of the Americans who joined them in 1942 the fortresses would survive, surrounded by the decimated French towns and countryside. This is the story of what was, perhaps, the longest ongoing battle in Europe during the Second World War, seen through the eyes of someone who experienced much of it firsthand. The desperate battle was waged on land, air, and sea. Because the dock at St. Nazaire could house and repair Hitler's powerful warship Tirpitz, British commandos carried out a daring raid to destroy it in March of 1942. They succeeded, but with great loss of life. The defenses of these fortresses were so strong that Eisenhower would ultimately decide to seek containment rather than destruction. The 66th Division, on its way to take up the task, lost its troopship Leopoldville to a German torpedo, with a loss of 802 men. The French underground movement in the area spawned a fighting force of 40,000 men to fight alongside the Americans, but the subsequent German reprisals would ultimately destroy many families in Brittany. Yet the bases stood, and continue to stand today.

"A solid, informative and interesting recounting of the defeat of the Nazi armies. While detailing the efforts of the Allies to seize the headquarters of Hitler's submarine fleet, Bradham also provides fascinating individual anecdotes of the courage exhibited by American soldiers."--Ed Koch, former mayor of New York City

"Randy Bradham did a great service by writing this book. Many of our colleagues from World War II are not around anymore, and for this veteran to step back and relate what happened sixty years ago is a most unexpected gift to our nation. I know veterans will want to read this; but I hope all Americans, especially the children, will read it so they understand the sacrifices their grandparents made so that future generations can enjoy the freedoms on which our country was founded."--Senator Ernest F. Hollings, D-South Carolina

"A compelling account of the people and events at Lorient and St. Nazaire that recounts the German invasion, nearly five years of occupation and Allied bombardment, and finally liberation after the German surrender. Of importance to all readers of World War II and military history, this book is a must read especially for those interested in the U-boat war."--James P. Duffy, author of Hitler's Secret Pirate Fleet